

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend the drawings by substituting the replacement drawing sheet including Figure 2 appended to this Reply for the originally filed drawing sheet including that figure. An annotated sheet showing the change made on the replacement drawing sheet is also appended to this Reply.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, and 10 remain in this application, and claims 7, 9, and 11-21 are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The objections to the drawings set forth in sections 1 and 2 on page 2 of the Office Action are eliminated as a result of the specification and drawing amendments referred to above.

Paragraph 0002 is amended above, and the objection set forth in section 3 on page 3 of the Office Action is eliminated.

The comments set forth by the Examiner in section 5 on page 3 of the Office Action are noted. The term “belt line,” however, is used in the claims of dozens of issued U.S. Patents involving vehicle-related technology, and each of these issued patents is presumably valid. 35 U.S.C. § 282. It is respectfully submitted that the term referred to by the Examiner is not unclear, and that claim 10 as originally filed fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Independent claims 1, dependent claims 7, and 9, and various other claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,316,336 to Taguchi et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Currently amended claim 1 incorporates limitations previously appearing in claims 7 and 9, which are now canceled, as well as limitations directed to features illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 of this application. Claim 1, therefore, now specifies that the gas generator extends beneath and substantially parallel to the constructional unit, and that the gas lance links the gas generator with

the constructional unit by way of a U-shaped section. These features serve to provide for convenient accommodation of the air bag in the space inside the door, particularly when the air bag forms a single unit together with the gas lance and when the gas generator is to be accommodated inside the door body adjacent to the unit as is the present case. As a result of the features now reflected in claim 1, a compactly constructed safety system can be arranged in very restricted space inside the door while leaving sufficient space for other door installations, such as loudspeakers, window actuators, and so on. The Taguchi et al. air bag apparatus does not constitute a safety system for a motor vehicle including, in addition to other elements, a gas generator accommodated and extending as specified, and a gas lance as recited which links the gas generator with the constructional unit by way of a U-shaped connection as claim 1 presently defines, and claim 1 is not anticipated by the Taguchi et al. patent.

U.S. Patent 5,788,270 to HÅland et al. is relied on as a secondary reference in combination with the Taguchi et al. patent in the rejection set forth in section 9 on page 5 of the Office Action. The HÅland et al. patent disclosure, however, does not suggest modifying the Taguchi et al. air bag apparatus so as to meet the limitations mentioned above, however, and claim 1 as it appears above is considered patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in this application depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are considered patentable as well.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in allowable condition for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be

appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52721US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 2

